

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10408 251452Z

70

ACTION PER-03

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R 251342Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2592

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 10408

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, UR

SUBJ: POSITION CLASSIFICATION - CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION MOSCOW

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT POSITION 30-3010-114, CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION, BE RECLASSIFIED TO FSO-2 LEVEL. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME THAT PRESENT LEVEL (FSO-4) INACCURATELY REFLECTS JOB'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARRIVAL NEW INCUMBENT PRESENTS CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TAKE THIS STEP.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, CONSULAR MATTERS IN SOVIET UNION HAVE UNIQUE POLITICAL DIMENSION. AS DEMONSTRATED ON NUMEROUS PAST OCCASIONS, ANY INDIVIDUAL CONSULAR CASE CAN QUICKLY ESCALATE TO MATTER OF NATIONAL ATTENTION, SOMETIMES WITH FAR-REACHING POLICY IMPLICATIONS. MORE GENERALLY, EXPANSION US-SOVIET RELATIONS OVER PAST TWO TO THREE YEARS HAS MARKEDLY INCREASED SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS HERE, A DEVELOPMENT CERTAIN TO CONTINUE AT RAPID PACE IN FUTURE. IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET UNION TO US FOREIGN POLICY IS SELF-EVIDENT AND USG'S PRINCIPAL CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE HERE SHOULD HAVE THE BROAD PERSPECTIVE, JUDGEMENT AND OVERALL COMPETENCE CORRESPONDING TO THE FSO-2 LEVEL. WE HAVE BEEN LUCKY TO RECRUIT PRESENT, WELL-QUALIFIED INCUMBENT (FSO-3 CLIFFORD GROSS) NOTWITHSTANDING CURRENT LOW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND, LOOKING FORWARD, BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO GEAR PERSONNEL SYSTEM FOR SUCCEEDING ASSIGNMENTS OF EXPERIENCED SENIOR OFFICERS NEEDED TO FILL THIS KEY POSITION.

STOESSEL

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